

Amherst Public Arts Commission Meeting - August 30, 2012

First Floor Meeting Room in Amherst Town Hall, 3:20 p.m.

Present: Terry Rooney (Chair), Rachel Hankinson, Bonnie Isman, Rene Theberge  
Absent: Rosario Gaddier, Randa Nachbar, Jenny Lind, Jim Wald (Select Board liaison)

**Meeting report.** Terry, Matt Johnson, and Bonnie met with Town Manager John Musante and Chamber Director Tony Maroulis in mid-August. Matt is still waiting for approval of the contract to purchase the Portal sculpture. Matt will move the piece if the Town doesn't agree to purchase it. Musante approved payment of \$500 to Matt as a down payment, and Terry will mail the check today. The Amherst BID has pledged \$3,500 once the balance has been raised, and Tony emphasized that John's encouragement was a big reason for the BID's support. John reiterated that the Town does not have money to spend on public art and that APAC will need to do fundraising. Tony suggested a Kick Starter campaign and a direct mailing, etc. Terry feels we must focus on the Biennial first and do fundraising in November. She will apply for a grant from the Amherst Cultural Council in October.

Terry will meet with John and Christine Brestrup, Senior Planner and Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director about plans for sculpture in Kendrick Park and the role of the Design Review Board.

**Biennial update.** Terry reported that some museums will not be open on October 6 for the Biennial Opening. She is still looking for display space for large artwork and videos. Michaelson's gallery has been rented, so she is looking for another vacant store front. New locations have been added: the Harp Restaurant (videos), Lord Jeffrey Inn, Women's Club, Amherst History Museum at the Strong House, Hitchcock Center.

Catalog production has started and will be printed in black and white, since we did not get an Adams grant award from the Mass. Cultural Council. Artists work will be shown in color on the Biennial website. Florence Savings Bank will donate \$1,000 as lead community sponsor. Rene encouraged contacting Northampton Coop and other local banks to match this gift.

The grant from the Amherst Cultural Council will be used to create a street banner that will be hung from October 1-7. Bonnie will turn in the application to DPW. The artists doing installation pieces will be paid a small honorarium plus they are doing their own fundraising. Terry is very excited about the performances by Karen Dolmanisth at Mead Art Museum with original music played using multiple sound sources as well as the carillon.

Rene will help with the installation at the Bank of America. Rachel will help coordinate with Samuel Rowlett's, the performance artist at Puffer's Pond. Bonnie will contact GIS Administrator Mike Olkin for help mapping all the Biennial sites. Terry will work with

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Rosario on posters and flyers. She will ask Randa to contact teachers about class visits to see Biennial exhibits.

Minutes of May 3 and June 7 were approved, as amended.

**Next meeting: Wednesday, September 12 at 4 pm in the First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall.**

Adjourned at 4:15 pm

Submitted by Bonnie Isman